

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18, as follows:

Referring to Fig. 1 of the drawings, an applicator assembly for use in applying a sheet of surgical material through an opening to bridge the remote internal termination of the opening has a deployment sleeve 1 insertable through a laparoscopic port LP, a plunger 2 for location within the sleeve 1 and which has a length sufficient to extend from the proximal to the distal end of the sleeve and a sheet of surgical material 3 which can be folded or collapsed to a conical form as shown for location at and within the distal end of the deployment sleeve. The material can equally well be located the other way round, that is with the apex adjacent the plunger 2. An actuating means 4 comprising a suture is provided operative to unfold or erect the sheet 3 following expulsion from the distal end of the deployment sleeve 1 through longitudinal movement of the plunger 2. The sheet 3 is conveniently circular, typically, of some 3 cm or so in diameter. The inner facing surface will include a PTFE coating or layer to inhibit adhesion of tissue, notably bowel. The outward facing surface will be of uncoated polypropylene mesh, "textured" PTFE or similar, to facilitate incorporation into the body wall tissues. Those familiar with the art will be conversant with the term "textured" PTFE as used herein.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 21, as follows:

Laparoscopic ports are generally 0.5 to 1.0 cm in nominal diameter and thus sleeve 1 is appropriately dimensioned to pass down the port device. The suture may be absorbable Vycryl® or similar and pass all the way through the plunger to a needle. At the termination of the laparoscopic procedure following withdrawal of instruments the applicator assembly will be fed through the port device. The outer sleeve may, or may not, have an externally placed flange 7

(Fig. 1) to control the length of insertion in the port LP and the plunger may likewise have a flange to control the position in the sleeve.